warming trends as the others, and some regions of the country show lesser warming trend or even cooling trends. While significant warming trend occur over most parts of the peninsular region of the country; many parts of the North West India show cooling trends. In the Indian context, most of the studies during the last four decades have clearly pointed out that the monsoon rainfall is trend-less and is mainly random in nature over a long period of time, particularly on an all-India scale.

(b) In India, the existing legislative and policy framework in various sectors of concern, together with wide ranging reforms contribute to addressing the climate change issues. These, *inter-alia*, include energy efficiency measures, energy conservation, power sector reforms and active renewable energy programme, fuel switching to cleaner energy, afforestation and conservation of forests, etc. India also has the largest number of projects under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol, which reduce net emissions of greenhouse gases. Moreover, India has had, over the last 55 years of economical development, undertaken major programs addressing climate variability concerns. These include cyclone warning and protection, coastal protection, floods and drought control and relief, major and minor irrigation projects, control of malaria, food security measures and research on drought resistant crops.

(c) A detailed assessment of the present trends in Indian climate parameters and future scenarios of climate change is provided in India's Initial Communication to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The studies carried out for different future greenhouse gas emission scenarios indicate that the projected temperature changes are more pronounced over the Northern latitudes compared to the peninsular India. The rainfall is expected to increase by about 10-15% across India with variability across regions. While there is a higher confidence for temperature projections, there are still large uncertainties in the projected monsoon rainfall over this part of the globe as most of the climate models still lack sufficient detail in their simulation of monsoon rainfall.

Creation of forest and biomass

3257. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is creating forest and biomass resources in all cultivable vacant lands to strengthen the life support system of communities;

(b) if so, the details of steps undertaken, so far; and

(c) the present status of cultivable lands in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining lands and to *inter-alia* augment biomass resource on such lands. The scheme is being implemented through a two-tier decentralized mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMCs) at village level.

(b) 729 FDA projects have been approved so far in 28 States to cover a project area of 9.36 lakh hectares through 24,215 JFMCs.

(c) As per "Agricultural Statistics At A Glance 2003", published by Ministry of Agriculture, the net sown area of the country was 141.23 million hectares in 1999-2000.

Protection of wildlife

3258. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that peacocks and other birds are being driven away from farms and villages due to fear of wildlife laws;

(b) whether it is also a fact that wildlife activities cannot give protection to peacocks, etc. by rearing them and protecting them;

(c) what steps would be taken to evolve a policy to allow licensed and registered applicants to rear peacocks and treat them as pets; and

(d) the steps proposed to encourage people to protect wildlife?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) There are no reports of peacocks and other birds being driven away from farms and villages due to fear of wildlife laws.